

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 09BERN273, SWITZERLAND SHUTTING DOWN COLENCO'S BUSINESS WITH

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09BERN273**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09BERN273	2009-07-01 19:11	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET	Embassy Bern

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.aftenposten.no/spesial/wikileaksdokumenter/article3994463.ece>

R 011911Z JUL 09
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5919
INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

S E C R E T BERN 000273

DEPT FOR ISN/RA (J.ALLEN-CLOSE), NEA/IR, EUR/PRA, AND
EUR/AGS (Y.SAINT-ANDRE), NSC FOR JEFF HOVENIER, DEPT OF
JUSTICE BRUCE SWARTZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/30/2019
TAGS: [IR](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [KWAC](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#)
EINV, SZ
SUBJECT: SWITZERLAND SHUTTING DOWN COLENCO'S BUSINESS WITH
IRAN

REF: 08 BERN 464

Classified By: CDA L.Carter for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

¶1. (S) Summary: Swiss Minister for Economics and Trade Doris Leuthard called CDA in to advise that the Swiss Federal Councilors had decided in a special session to shut down Swedish firm Colenco's commercial activities in Iran. The Minister also reaffirmed the commitment of the Swiss

government to accept several detainees from Guantanamo Bay for resettlement in Switzerland. Minister Leuthard made it clear that these two activities were linked to the achievement of a political settlement in the case of Swiss banking giant, UBS. The US court is scheduled to hear arguments in the civil case on July 13 and it is clear that the GOS hopes a settlement can be reached before the hearing date. End Summary.

12. (S) Minister Leuthard began the meeting by describing today's special session of the Federal Council which was focused on what steps the Swiss government could take to advance a political solution of the UBS case. The Council considered action on the Colenco case, long advocated by the USG and a major topic during the February meeting between Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Calmy Rey, was one proactive measure the Swiss government could take in this direction. Since action in this case falls under the purview of Minister Leuthard, she was tasked to take immediate action to shut down Colenco's operations and to notify the USG. The additional information that the USG experts provided to the GOS on June 25th was pivotal in providing the Swiss with adequate actionable intelligence to make a legal finding that Colenco is violating the sanctions on Iran. Leuthard confirmed that the information we provided tracked with the findings of the Swiss intelligence services. The Swiss now consider that Colenco is not fulfilling their requirements under the dual use provisions of Swiss law. Leuthard also advised that they have notified the Swedish government of their intent to go forward with official action against Colenco.

13. (S) Colenco was not able to adequately defend their activities in Iran by a deadline set by the Swiss government. Leuthard stated that Colenco will be formally told to cease their activities in Iran on July 2. She further opined that should the government or other conditions relating to proliferation change for the better in Iran, Colenco may be able to resume their activities in the future. She emphasized that this shut-down was a "suspension". She promised to provide us with a written copy of the Colenco decision.

14. (S) Leuthard then turned the topic of discussion to Swiss willingness to accept several detainees from Guantanamo for resettlement and encouraged us to provide as much data as possible quickly so that the Swiss could move forward. CDA advised that more bio and medical data had been received today and was being delivered via a separate channel.

15. (S) At this point, Leuthard emphasized that these two actions were "elements showing that Switzerland is committed to resolving all issues between our countries." To bring home the point, she reiterated that this resolve extended especially to finding a political solution to the UBS case.

CARTER